

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action of April 5, 2005, applicant has herein amended the claims to emphasize the features distinguishing the invention from the cited prior art.

The allowance of Claims 5 and 13 and the indication of allowability of dependent Claims 8 and 16 is noted with appreciation.

The device of the present invention is for sizing a yarn sheet being moved in a conveying direction with at least one sizing compartment for contacting the yarn of the sheet with sizing liquor. A draw-in unit is connected upstream of the sizing compartment and a squeezer for the sizing is connected downstream thereof. Means are provided for pre-wetting the yarn and the sheet with a liquor prior to its contact with the sizing liquor, and with a wetting agent squeezer, placed between the pre-wetting means and the sizing compartment. The draw-in unit is simultaneously incorporated multi-functionally as the pre-moistening means and as the wetting agent squeezer. In this manner, the yarn sheet is pre-wet prior to entering the sizing bath and the pre-wetted yarn sheet is squeezed in such a way that as little as possible pre-wetting agent gets into the sizing compartment while the individual yarn remains moist.

A compact structure results because the draw-in unit, wetting trough and wetting agent squeezer, which in the prior art were arranged sequentially in the conveying direction, are now combined in a single unit with double-or multi-functions of their individual parts. As the draw-in unit includes the pre-wetting means and the associated wetting agent squeezer, no additional space is required for the pre-wetting compartment. The draw-in unit, combined in accordance with the present invention, can therefore be placed in the immediate spatial vicinity upstream of the sizing compartment.

The yarn sheet traveling from the wetting agent squeezer to the sizing compartment is conveyed over a free segment, without any rollers or other guides, thus allowing only a minimum length of yarn travel from the draw-in unit to the sizing compartment, which not only permits a very compact construction, but also minimizes undesirable cooling of the yarn sheet.

The claims, as presently amended, emphasize the roller arrangement and free-segment features that allow a compact construction in comparison with the prior art.

The German '962 patent does not show a compact structure as claimed herein. As seen in Figs. 1 and 2 of the German '962 patent there is a substantial distance between the so-called mangle (28) of the water immersion bath (24) and the so-called sizing rollers (12). The yarn sheet coming from the mangle has to be turned around at least one roller before reaching the sizing rollers. The yarn sheet is not conveyed unsupported between the third roller of the draw-in unit and the first roller of the sizing compartment.

The device of Cohn et al. '465 patent is used for web material, not yarn sheets. In addition to three rollers, means are provided for drawing the web into the device. Such means comprises e.g. an in-feed system (11) for the fabrics. The apparatus is also provided with a roller set with a comparator roller behind the last roller (Fig. 1).

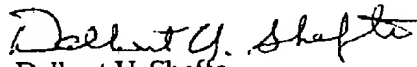
The Cohn et al. '465 patent does not teach or suggest the use of the device as a draw-in unit. In particular, it does not teach the use of a three roller processing apparatus as a draw-in unit, as a wetting means and as a wetting agent squeezer for pre-wetting a yarn sheet to be sized.

Furthermore, neither Cohn et al. '465 patent nor German '962 patent teaches an arrangement of a wetting compartment with three rollers and a sizing compartment in a

manner that the yarn is conveyed from one to the other through a free segment of a minimized distance, made possible by the compact structure of the rollers of the wetting compartment.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended patentably distinguish over the cited prior art and are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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